



The \_\_\_\_\_  
**First Congregational Church**  
of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,  
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

*July 5th, 2020*

# *The Order of Morning Worship*

*For assistance as we “gather” remotely and in-person to worship together.*

July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Nine-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

## Isaiah 6: 1 – 3

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

❖ Hymn of Exultation

*O Worship the King*

Number 2

## O Worship the King

All you have made will praise you, O LORD; your saints will extol you. Ps. 145:10



1. O wor - ship the King all - glo - rious a - bove, O grate - ful - ly
2. O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the
3. The earth with its store of won - ders un - told, Al - might - y, your
4. Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the



sing his pow'r and his love; our shield and De - fend - er, the  
light, whose can - o - py space. His char - iots of wrath the deep  
pow'r has found - ed of old; has 'stab - lished it fast by a  
air; it shines in the light; it streams from the hills; it de -



An - cient of Days, pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
thun - der - clouds form, and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
change-less de - cree, and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
scends to the plain; and sweet - ly dis - tils in the dew and the rain.



5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,  
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
your mercies how tender, how firm to the end,  
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend!
6. O measureless Might! Ineffable Love!  
While angels delight to hymn you above,  
the humbler creation, though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration shall lip to your praise.

## Scripture Reading

### Ephesians 2: 17 – 22

<sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## Pastoral Prayer

## Children's Message

## The Sermon

*"The Kingdom of Christ  
Advances to Samaria"*

Pastor Doug Warren

### Acts 8: 4 – 25

<sup>4</sup> Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup> And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much joy in that city.

<sup>9</sup> But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. <sup>10</sup> They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." <sup>11</sup> And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. <sup>13</sup> Even Simon

himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, <sup>15</sup> who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, <sup>16</sup> for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." <sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! <sup>21</sup> You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. <sup>23</sup> For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." <sup>24</sup> And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

<sup>25</sup> Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

❖ Hymn of Commitment

Number 457

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

457

*Samuel ... named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far has the LORD helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12*

♯ D A<sup>7</sup> D A D G D A<sup>7</sup> D

1. Come, thou fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2. Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer; hith - er by thy help - I'm come;  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

A<sup>7</sup> D A D G D A<sup>7</sup> D

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

A<sup>7</sup> D G D A<sup>7</sup> D G D

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God:  
 Prone to wan - der—Lord, I feel it—prone to leave the God I love:

A<sup>7</sup> D A D A<sup>7</sup> D

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Communion

Congregation

❖ Communion Hymn

Number 420

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*

# At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

420

*Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. 1 Cor. 5:7*

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
2. Where the pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes - his sword;  
3. Might - y vic - tim from the sky, pow'rs of hell be - neath thee lie;

who has washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;  
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.  
death is con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:

praise we him whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred blood for wine,  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal vic - tim, pas - chal bread;  
hymns of glo - ry and of praise, ris - en Lord, to thee we raise;

gives his bod - y for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.  
with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.  
ho - ly Fa - ther, praise to thee, with the Spir - it, ev - er be.



Benediction

Hebrews 13: 20 – 21

<sup>20</sup>Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup>equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

❖ Hymn of Anticipation

Number 385

*God Be with You Till We Meet Again (v. 1)*

*I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up. Acts 20:32*

*Unison*

1. God be with you till we meet a - gain;

*Harmony*

by his coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with his sheep se -

*Unison*

cure - ly fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The first system is labeled 'Unison' and contains the first line of lyrics. The second system is labeled 'Harmony' and contains the second line of lyrics. The third system is labeled 'Unison' and contains the third line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1880  
Tune from the *English Hymnal* by permission of Oxford University Press.

RANDOLPH Irreg.  
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

The Congregation may be seated for silent prayer.

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

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## Free Fish and Tank

The Woodstock Christian Childcare has a fish tank, bubbler, plastic plants, and 2 fish to give away. The tank is 36" X 18". If you have any questions or are interested in taking the fish and tank, please contact Ruth Brisson, Director at 410-925-7959 or email her at [brissonwccc@comcast.net](mailto:brissonwccc@comcast.net).

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## Deacons' Offering – Next Sunday, July 12

This month's Deacons' offering will go towards the work of the Deacons. Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The Deacons' have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Jerry Morton, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at 802-672-1793 or email at [ejerrym@aol.com](mailto:ejerrym@aol.com).

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## Church Picnic

July 26, 2020

Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday after church, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, at Silver Lake State Park, but there will be some significant changes in how things are done. Unfortunately, we are living in the midst of a pandemic and there will be restrictions.

The State Parks people have told us that we will have to wear masks and maintain social distancing. To keep people as safe as possible the picnic tables and benches have been removed from all state parks, so people attending the picnic will have to bring their own chairs or blankets to sit on. Use of bathrooms will be limited and they also suggest that you bring bottles of water to drink.

FCCW will provide hamburgers and hot dogs, but we are asking each family or person to bring their own side dishes, since we won't be able to set out food to share with others. As we do at Thanksgiving, each person needs to bring their own plate and cutlery.

Sounds like a lot of rules, doesn't it? Well, in the midst of a pandemic, the rules serve to keep people safe, so as a matter of Christian compassion, we will comply with the rules.

We are going forward with the annual church picnic for those who are comfortable attending. This should be a fun event. Please do not feel any pressure to attend if you are not comfortable doing so.

If you are planning to attend you will need to sign up in advance as the number of people in each group in the park will be restricted. Please click the link [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_rygKzHTZug30IsIUZuC3etb1iSOcR136RdvtO6t08w/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_rygKzHTZug30IsIUZuC3etb1iSOcR136RdvtO6t08w/edit?usp=sharing) and include all the information requested.

If you have any questions, please contact Cora Koop at 603-643-1609 or email her at [cora.hogue@gmail.com](mailto:cora.hogue@gmail.com).

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## Teens and 20 Something Discipleship Group

Pastor Doug has formed a Teens and 20 Something Discipleship Group to grow the faith of our High School Students and Young Adults in our congregation and community. This coming Tuesday, July 7 the group will meet at 8:00 am for Bible Study at the Church. On Thursday, July 9 the group will meet at 9:30 pm for a time of Praise and Fellowship at the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Doug at 802-457-1304 or email him at [PastorDougW@gmail.com](mailto:PastorDougW@gmail.com). Teens and 20 Somethings invite your friends to a time of learning, praise and worship, and fellowship. Appropriate social distancing and protocols are being taken.

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## Morning Worship Services

Even though our Sunday morning services have returned to meeting in person, we will continue to offer our services streamed live through our website: [fccw.net](http://fccw.net) and Facebook. Below are the links for the live stream of the Sunday Morning Worship Service:

1. Live Stream: [fccw.net/livestream](http://fccw.net/livestream), click on the arrow to start the Live Stream.

2. Live Stream via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Woodstock-Vermont-1514061492225108>

3. Live Stream via YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWwcbQa26ywlNKKwd9KSgEA/videos>

The Order of Worship, Sermon Notes and Taking Gathered Worship home are available on [fccw.net/livestream](http://fccw.net/livestream). If you have any questions, concerns, or prayer requests, please don't hesitate to call (802) 457-9818 or email [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com).

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## **The Kingdom of Christ Advances to Samaria**

1. The Gospel Advances in a Second Wave to Samaria (4-8).

2. Philip and Simon Are Presented as a Case Study (9-24).

3. The Gospel Continues to Spread as Promised (25).

Persecution pushed many of God's people out of Jerusalem and they took the Good News of Christ with them wherever they went. We are shown here one example through specific individuals: Philip and Simon. Philip is proclaiming Christ and Simon enthusiastically converts. But then it gets messy. Why does Simon want to follow Jesus? Is he really repenting or just looking for how God can help him? This brings up uncomfortable questions for us to consider. Why are you (we) following Christ?

## Galatians 3:7 – 20

<sup>7</sup> Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. <sup>8</sup> And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” <sup>9</sup> So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

<sup>10</sup> For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” <sup>11</sup> Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.” <sup>12</sup> But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.” <sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— <sup>14</sup> so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

## Acts—Series Overview

### *The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power*

*Acts* records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

## Taking Gathered Worship Home

The faithless traitors were amazed by magic. Yet, God graciously brought the Good News to them. He showed them the reality that their dark arts could only mimic. Let's look more deeply at Philip's proclamation and Simon Magus' response.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.*

### Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 8:4-25; Romans 1:16; Galatians 3:7-20**. DISCUSS, What does Philip's travel to Samaria teach us? How did Simon respond? What was the problem? How was Philip called to address it? What could Simon do? What could he not do? PRAY for Christ to embolden us to declare His resurrection wherever He leads us. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin from which we need to repent.

### Sunday Evening

*In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring revival here at FCCW and around the globe.*

### Monday

READ **Acts 8:4-8; 1:8; First Thessalonians 1:2-10**. DISCUSS, How did God use the persecution to extend His witness? What is God doing according to His promise? How does what we do affect more than just us? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness. By Your Holy Spirit make us faithful too."

### Tuesday

READ **Acts 8:9-24; Luke 5:1-11; John 13:1-11**. DISCUSS, Do you think Simon is truly saved? Why or why not? What place does repentance play (Lk v. 8)? What echo of Jesus's words to Peter (Jn v. 8) does Peter give to Simon (v. 21)? Why are we not given the result with Simon? PRAY, "Master, You washed the disciples' feet. You are the King of Kings. Teach us to humble ourselves and repent."

### Wednesday

READ **Acts 8:9-24; Isaiah 59:1-8; Luke 15:21; 18:9-14; Romans 2:1-5.** DISCUSS, For what are we guilty? How bad is it without Christ? What can we do to make it up to God? What does repentance involve? PRAY, “Lord, You’re merciful. Thank You for Your patience and loving-kindness to us. Break our pride and make us truly grateful for Your forgiveness in Christ.”

### Thursday

READ **Acts 8:25; Matthew 16:13-20; Ephesians 2:17-22.** DISCUSS, On what does the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom depend? How certain are you that it will succeed? What will Jesus do when He returns? How are you preparing for that hour? PRAY, “Lord, You alone are King of Kings. Make our hearts delight in praising You and longing for Your return.”

### Friday

READ **Acts 8:4-25; Romans 1:16; Galatians 3:7-20.** DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has given you the honor to witness for Him! PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *There will be both the live-stream and in-person services available.*

READ **Acts 8:1-40; Isaiah 53:1-12.** Invite others to join you for either the *live-stream or in-person service* tomorrow. Ask Jesus to help us in the transition back to gathered worship in the building.

## Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”